

RUDDIGORE

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

BUCKS COUNTY GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 9 & 10

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

84 Oakland Ave., Doylestown, PA.

We are using GS Schirmer Ruddigore score. You may submit for as many characters as you like. Memorized music and dialogue is not required. Be prepared to deliver a character with both your dialogue and music auditions.

Ruddigore takes place in the fishing village of Red Herring. Gilbert modifies the stock characters of Victorian Melodrama with personalities to develop his trademark "topsy-turvy" plot and situations. The good, honest and self-deprecating hero; the pure, virtuous village maiden; the brave and heroic "jolly jack tar"; the kindly dame; the "mad" maiden; the upstanding nobleman; the wicked villain and more. Gilbert pulls back the curtain to let us see that all are not really what we expect them to be. Keep that in mind and let them inform your audition.

If you have questions or problems preparing your audition material please contact Stage Director Julie May (juliecmay@msn.com), or Music Director Lee Milhous (leefmilhous@verizon.net).

CHARACTER NOTES:

SIR RUTHVEN MURGATROYD (ROBIN OAKAPPLE)

Voice part: light baritone

Eldest brother and heir to the baronetcy of Ruddigore, Ruthven ran away, shirking his duties as eldest and lives as Robin Oakapple, a shy, well mannered, prosperous farmer. He is all that a hero of a Regency romance should be. He is in love with Rose Maybud, but he is painfully shy and tongue-tied when it comes to wooing the girl he loves.

RICHARD DAUNTLESS

Voice part: tenor

Dick is the prototype of the heroic "jolly jack tar" from melodrama and fiction - brave, heroic, loyal to the end, and charismatic. However, his introduction shows that his ship runs away from a possible battle, and when he does the brotherly task of trying to get

Rose to engage herself to Robin, he woos her for himself, comforted that he has followed his heart's dictates. Handsome, rugged seaman with feet of clay.

SIR DESPARD MURGATROYD

Voice part: baritone

Sir Despard, the youngest of the family, is the current “Bad Baronet of Ruddigore” and a classic melodrama villain. He commits crimes in a “real black cape and twirling mustache” kind of business. In reality, if it wasn’t for the curse on the family, he would live a pure and blameless life, and after he gets his daily crime done, he does charitable work anonymously, with the side benefit that it atones for the daily evil deed.

SIR RODERIC MURGATROYD

Voice part: bass-baritone

A ghost. The most recently deceased Bad Baronet. This ghost at first is a supernatural terror, but then we find he is more of a nobleman trying to run the business of his estate and ancestors. He can be duped (foggy), but can bully Ruthven with the best of them.

OLD ADAM GOODHEART/GIDEON CRAWLE

Voice part: bass-baritone

As he says himself, he is the classic “Good Old Man”. Servant to Robin, he carries out his work with complete allegiance to Robin/Ruthven. When he becomes Gideon Crawle in Act 2, he challenges his master for not taking being a “bad baronet” seriously, and doing something truly evil.

ROSE MAYBUD

Voice part: soprano

A foundling who has grown into the picture of the perfect village maiden heroine. Kind to children, pets, and the elderly, she spends her day doing good deeds. She is shy, naïve and unworldly as she turns down every suitor, including Robin, as they are not worthy of her standards as dictated by the book of etiquette found in her bassinet as a baby.

MAD MARGARET

Voice part: mezzo-soprano

Character notes: Classic gothic stock character of woman driven mad by the loss of the man she loves (Sir Despard).. She tries her best to appear reformed when her love returns to claim her, but often slips into her former madness.

DAME HANNAH

Voice part: contralto

Melodrama’s “good old motherly” type, and village gossip. Looks after her orphan “niece” Rose Maybud, and tries to get her more involved in the matrimonial scene. She was engaged to Sir Roderic, a Baronet of Ruddigore, but left him when his true, bad identity

was revealed. In the second act she defends herself and her honor from threatened bodily harm.

ZORAH and RUTH, Professional Bridesmaids

Voice part: Zorah = soprano, Ruth = soprano or alto

Zorah - While believing that she is the head professional bridesmaid, she really isn't. Bright, vivacious, and always ready to lend a hand or idea. Particularly taken with Richard.

Ruth - As Zorah's Lieutenant, she is the one who is really in charge. She does all she can to make the bridesmaids look good and back up the supposed leader. A busy body.